Pending investment proposals

†1646. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around sixty two thousand investment proposals are pending with Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details of the amount of investment proposed for various projects; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in according sanction to these proposals, and the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY, PROMOTION AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the extant industrial policy most manufacturing activities are exempt from industrial licensing/ approval. In the delicensed sector 69,113 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with proposed investment of Rs.25,03,928 crore were received during the period 01.08.1991 to 31.01.2007.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Export of Iron Ore

1647. SHRI M.V.MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 83 million tonnes of iron ore, the country's precious wealth, is being exported to China and other countries, comprising more than one and half times the consumption in the country

(b) whether it is also a fact that China, which has large iron ore reserves for itself; is keeping them unexplored for meeting its future requirements, and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to ban export of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the year 2005-06, the export of iron ore from India was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.